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University should adopt guidelines for intelligence agency research

Just because recent disclosures of CIA-sponsored research at I.U. did not uncover some of the horrors confirmed at other universities — including drug experimentation on humans — doesn't insure it can't happen here in the future.

The whole incidence of covert CIA-related research on college campuses demonstrates the need for controls to govern intelligence agencies' involvement. One university, Harvard, did adopt such controls in May.

The Harvard guidelines do not forbid intelligence-related research on its campus, but do demand full disclosure of intelligence agency involvement. Other schools, including Ohio State, are considering adopting similar guidelines. Schools that have adopted such guidelines are Florida State and Amherst.

But I.U. has no plans to consider such proposals.

Part of the reason could be that I.U. was overlooked when a Washington-based group, the Campaign to Stop Government Spying, mailed copies of the Harvard guidelines to 42

college and university presidents nationwide. The only school in Indiana to receive the guidelines is Indiana State University at Terre Haute.

I.U. should look into these guidelines and consider adopting rules governing University-intelligence agency relationships.

Though recent disclosures indicate CIA activity occurred many years ago, at least 100 campuses are conducting CIA research now, said a spokesman for the Campaign to Stop Government Spying. Clearly, CIA activity on college campuses is not dead.

Though the Harvard guidelines cannot prevent intelligence agencies from using fronts to fund campus research — as the CIA used the now-defunct Human Ecology Fund at I.U. — they are a step in the right direction and an indication that universities will not tolerate possible abuse of laws by intelligence agencies.

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for the Opinion Board